(*b*) whether the Excise Commissioner has received any petitions regarding the smuggling of salt during transport seasons in 1110, 1111 and 1112; and

(*c*) the action taken by the Excise Commissioner and the findings thereon?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: (*a*) No.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) In view of the answer to part (*b*) this does not arise.

Leakage of revenue from salt.

68. **MR. K. KESAVAN**: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they are aware that there are serious complaints about the leakage of revenue to Government facilitated by the transport of salt under bond;

(*b*) whether the Excise Commissioner has received any petitions regarding the smuggling of salt during transport seasons in 1110, 1111 and 1112; and

(*c*) the action taken by the Excise Commissioner and the findings thereon?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*). The member is referred to the answer to interpellation No. 67 by Mr. P. Kunjukrishnan.

Over-issue of salt from the factory at Kovalam.

69. **MR. K. KESAVAN**: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the Excise Commissioner had detected a case of over-issue of salt from the S. C T. M. Factory at Kovalam in 1111;

(*b*) whether the Excise Commissioner, after finding excess salt in the bags he weighed in the factory at Kovalam, has entrusted the weighment of the balance to the then Assistant Excise Commissioner;

(*c*) what was the Assistant Excise Commissioner's report on the weighment of the balance described in part (*b*); and

(*d*) the findings of the Excise Commissioner on the conduct of the Assistant Excise Commissioner in the case described in parts (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*)?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: (*a*) Excess was found in 50 bags check-weighed by the Excise Commissioner.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The whole quantity was weighed by the Assistant Excise Commissioner, and the result of the weighment showed that there was not only no excess, but that there was deficiency of 4 maunds 6 seers.

(*d*) There was no ground for taking action against the Assistant Excise Commissioner and hence no action was taken against him.

Control system in Salt Factories.

70. **MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN**: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the control system prevalent in the sale of salt in the factories of Travancore;

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. P. Kunjukrishnan.]

(*b*) when this control system was introduced in Travancore; and

(*c*) the necessity of introducing the control system in the Salt Factories?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: (*a*) There is no control over the sale of salt in the Factories.

(*b*) and (*c*) In view of the answer to part (*a*), these questions do not arise.

Punishment of Excise Inspector Mr. Walsalam.

71. **MR. K. KESAVAN:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) for what offence the Excise Inspector Mr. Walsalam was punished and given compulsory retirement from service;

(*b*) whether in the course of the enquiry conducted in connection with Mr. Walsalam's case, a series of complaints of malpractice and corruption in the factories have been disclosed against the then Assistant Excise Commissioner and the Inspectors of factories and received by the Excise Commissioner;

(*c*) whether Government have appointed a committee and ordered an enquiry into the malpractices and corruption in the salt factories of Travancore;

(*d*) whether the enquiry described in part (*c*) has been conducted and concluded;

(*e*) whether any case of corruption was brought to light as a result of the enquiry;

(*f*) whether they will be pleased to place on the table the findings of the Government in the case of corruption, if any, described in part (*e*);

(*g*) whether any petition has been received by the Excise Commissioner subsequent to the punishment given to Mr. Walsalam about corruptions of Excise Inspectors or Assistant Excise Commissioners of salt factories; and

(*h*) if the answer to part (*g*) is in the affirmative, the persons against whom petitions were received by the Excise Commissioner from the salt licensees and the final orders passed thereon?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: (*a*) For corruption.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) No committee was appointed. But a joint enquiry by the Excise Commissioner and the Division Peishkar, Trivandrum, into certain alleged malpractices in the Salt Factories was ordered by Government.

(*d*) An enquiry was conducted by the Excise Commissioner and the Division Peishkar.

(*e*) No.

(*f*) This does not arise in view of the answer to part (*e*).

(*g*) No.

(*h*) This does not arise in view of the answer to part (*g*).

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly